



USAID | WEST BANK/GAZA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

April 26, 2006
Notice No. 2006-WBG-17

To: All USAID Contractors and Grantees
Subject: Contact Policy for the Palestinian Authority

Dear Contractors and Grantees,

The United States has decided to redirect its assistance for the West Bank and Gaza away from the Palestinian Authority (PA) cabinet and ministries and toward the basic humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, as well as to increased assistance for the expansion and protection of democracy. The U.S. Department of State, in furtherance of U.S. foreign policy and the U.S. national interest, has asked USAID to implement the following policy governing contact with the PA. The policy applies to the expatriate and local staff of both for-profit and non-profit contractors and grantees and their subcontractors and subgrantees in their execution of USG-funded activities.

This notice pertains to contact only. Matters related to material support statutes or Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions will be addressed separately.

1. **Contact with PA Ministries:** No contact is allowed with PA officials under the authority of the Prime Minister or any other minister. Contact with all officials in these ministries, including working-level employees, is prohibited.
2. **Contact with the PA Presidency:** Contact is allowed with the Palestinian Authority Presidency and agencies under his authority, including the Office of the President, Presidential Security, General Intelligence, Governors and Governorate staff, the Attorney General's Office, and the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF). This list may be updated from time to time.
3. **Contact with Independent PA Entities:** Contact is allowed with PA offices and officials that are independent of the Prime Minister and cabinet ministers. This includes:
 - The Palestinian Judiciary, including the Higher Judicial Council;
 - Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), PLC staff, and officials under their authority who are not Designated Terrorist Organization (DTO) members or affiliates. All PLC members elected on the Hamas-affiliated ticket, and their staffs are off limits; and

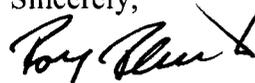
Tel Aviv: American Embassy
71 Hayarkon Street
Tel: 972-3-511-4848
Fax: 972-3-511-4888

Jerusalem: American Consulate General
P.O. Box 290
Tel: 972-2-622-7230
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- Independent agencies, including the Central Elections Commission; the Independent Citizens Rights Commission; the General Audit Authority/External Audit Agency; and the Palestinian Monetary Authority. This list may be updated from time to time.
4. Contact with other Palestinians: Contact is allowed with any private Palestinian, and mayors, deputy mayors, village council members, and officials under their authority, who are not affiliated with a DTO, such as Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine – Hawatmeh Faction (DFLP).¹
 5. “Contact” means any meeting, telephone conversation, or other communication, whether oral or written.
 6. Exceptions: Contact with the PA is permitted only for administrative purposes to implement USG-approved programmatic activities. First, all efforts should be made to implement a project with no contact. If that is not possible, then contact should only be made at the lowest possible level. In no case should there be any contact with any PA minister, PA sub-cabinet agency head, or PLC member affiliated with a DTO. Contact sanctioned under License No. SDG-597 requires the prior approval of USAID.
 7. Inadvertent contacts: When staff members of a contractor or grantee inadvertently encounter a prohibited individual, they should avoid substantive interactions with that person and should terminate the contact as soon as possible without creating an incident. To avoid such situations, contractors and grantees should use best efforts to ensure that meetings, ceremonies, and other events they arrange do not include prohibited individuals.
 8. Questions and clarifications about this policy may be submitted by USAID for review on a case-by-case basis.

Contractors and grantees should address any questions about this notice to R. David Harden, Deputy Mission Director, dharden@usaid.gov, 03-511-4845.

Sincerely,



Roy Plucknett
Contracting Officer
USAID West Bank & Gaza Mission

¹ A list of all designated Designated Terrorist Organizations is available at <http://www.treasury.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sdn/>.